

**What is claimed is:-**

1. A method of controlling the operation of a mobile communication network mobile station, the method comprising transmitting a transport format combination command signal to a mobile station in a transport channel, wherein said transport channel is combined with and transmitted with at least one other transport channel.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein only commands are carried in the transport channel carrying the transport format combination command signal.
- 10 3. A method according to claim 2, including receiving a received signal quality report from said mobile station and generating the transport format combination command signal in dependence on the received signal quality report.
- 15 4. A mobile communication network infrastructure apparatus comprising processing means and transmitter means, wherein the processing means is configured for generating a transport format combination command signal, processing the transport format combination command signal in a transport channel, combining said transport channel with at least one other transport channel to produce a combined signal and supplying the combined signal to the transmitter means for transmission to a mobile station.
- 20 5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the processing means is configured such that only commands are carried in the transport channel carrying the transport format combination command signal.
- 25 6. An apparatus according to claim 5, including receiving means for receiving a received signal quality report from a mobile station, wherein the processing means is configured for generating a transport format combination command signal for said mobile station in dependence on the received signal quality report.
- 30 7. A method of operating a mobile station in a mobile communications network, the method comprising receiving a transport format combination

command in a transport channel and using the transport format combination commanded by said command for a subsequent transmission of speech and/or data signals.

- 5     8. A method according to claim 7, including determining the quality of a received downlink signal and transmitting a report of said quality in a transport channel, wherein said transport channel is combined with and transmitted with at least one other transport channel.
- 10    9. A mobile station for a mobile communications network, the mobile station comprising processing means and transceiving means, wherein the processing means is configured for using a transport format combination, specified in a transport channel received by the receiving means, for subsequent transmission of speech and/or data signals.
- 15    10. A mobile station according to claim 9, wherein the processing means is configured for determining the quality of a downlink signal received by the transceiving means, supplying an indication of said quality to a transport channel, combining said transport channel with at least one other transport channel to produce a combined signal and causing the transceiving means to transmit said combined signal.
- 20    11. A method of operating a mobile communication network, the method comprising:
  - transmitting a transport format combination command signal to a mobile station in a transport channel, said transport channel being combined with and transmitted with at least one other transport channel; and
  - receiving said transport format combination command at a mobile station and using the transport format combination commanded by said command for a subsequent transmission of speech and/or data signals by the mobile station.
- 30    12. A method according to claim 11, wherein only commands are carried in the transport channel carrying the transport format combination command signal.

13. A method according to claim 11, including determining the quality of a received downlink signal at the mobile station and transmitting a report of said quality in a transport channel, wherein said transport channel is combined with and transmitted with at least one other transport channel.  
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14. A method according to claim 13, including receiving a received signal quality report from said mobile station and generating the transport format combination command signal in dependence on the received signal quality report.  
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16. A mobile communication network including:  
an infrastructure apparatus comprising:  
processing means and transmitter means, the processing means being configured for generating a transport format combination command signal,  
15 processing the transport format combination command signal in a transport channel, combining said transport channel with at least one other transport channel to produce a combined signal and supplying the combined signal to the transmitter means for transmission to a mobile station, and  
a mobile station comprising:  
20 processing means and transceiving means, the processing means being configured for using a transport format combination, specified in a transport channel received by the receiving means from said infrastructure apparatus, for subsequent transmission of speech and/or data signals.
- 25 17. A network according to claim 16, wherein the processing means of the infrastructure apparatus is configured such that only commands are carried in the transport channel carrying the transport format combination command signal.
18. A network according to claim 16, wherein the processing means of the  
30 mobile station is configured for determining the quality of a downlink signal received by the transceiving means from the infrastructure apparatus, supplying an indication of said quality to a transport channel, combining said transport channel with at least one other transport channel to produce a combined signal and causing

the transceiving means to transmit said combined signal to the infrastructure apparatus.

19. A network according to claim 18, wherein the infrastructure apparatus includes receiving means for receiving a received signal quality report from the mobile station and the processing means of the infrastructure apparatus is configured for generating a transport format combination command signal for said mobile station in dependence on the received signal quality report.  
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